

en four and five. Perhaps not only truthfulness, certain precocious alertness, is to be deduced from At the age of six, or earlier,¹ Benjamin was sent to DO! at Islington which was kept by a Miss Roper, •hich is described by one who knew it as ' for those a very high-class establishment.' Miss Roper had cks connexion, so that by an odd coincidence min's schoolmates included a number of boys ging to families among whom the Disraelis after-3 settled in that county. From Islington in process le he passed to a school of higher grade kept by the John Potticany, an Independent Minister, it is said,² liott Place, Blackheath. Here the atmosphere we Id, was liberal' as to both politics and religion,' though of the boys appear to have attended the services 3 Established Church. Probably it was only in a I of a certain latitude in religious matters that could be found in those days for a professing Jew ; 7G learn that Ben was not only allowed to stand it prayer time, but in common with a schoolfellow ?as also a Jew received instruction in Hebrew from bi who visited .them on Saturdays. Among his nporaries at Blackheath was Milner Gibson, the :nown Radical politician, who in later days was to jposite him in the House of Commons. From 3r contemporary we get a pleasant picture of Mr. sany's most distinguished pupil: —

.en my father took me to school he handed me over ., as he always called him. I looked up to him as a big .id very kind lie was to me, making me sit next to him y hours, and amusing me with stories of robbers and illustrating them with rough pencil sketches, which he ually rubbed out to make way for fresh ones. He was . rapid reader, was fond of romances, and would often j sit by him and read the same book, good-naturedly g before turning a leaf till he knew I had reached the i of the page. He was very fond of playing at horses,

early that he used afterwards to say he believed he was ere to learn to speak. wish
Chronicle, May 29, 1868.